

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. No additional fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims has not changed, and the total number of claims has not changed.

Request for Telephone Interview

Applicants kindly request the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (847) 490-1400 to schedule a telephone interview, to discuss the merits of this Patent Application.

Amendment to the Specification

Applicants amended the Specification to correct a typographical error.

Amendment to the Claims

Applicants amended Claims 1, 13, and 20 so that each recites a water-insoluble binding agent or coating material and an add-on level of at least about 5%. Support for this Amendment can be found at page 2, lines 3-24, page 11, last

paragraph, and the Examples on pages 21-26. No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Hiltzik et al.

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9, 13, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Hiltzik et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0082382, is respectfully traversed.

The Hiltzik et al. Publication discloses a method for avoidance of carbon dust from activated carbon used in automotive emission control canisters (Abstract). The dust is disclosed as reduced or eliminated by application of a “thin, continuous polymer coating” on the activated carbon, without a reduction in adsorption (Paragraph 0019). However, only with coatings below 3.5 wt % was the adsorption capacity unchanged (Paragraph 0059 and Tables I-V). The Hiltzik et al. Publication states that polyethylene coatings greater than 3.5 wt % affect adsorption, and that other polymer coatings should be less than 3 wt % (Paragraph 0060).

The Hiltzik et al. Publication does not disclose or suggest a coating material for activated carbon having an add-on level of at least about 5%, as in Applicants’ claimed invention. The Hiltzik et al. Publication therefore does not teach

each and every limitation of amended Claim 1, 13, and 20. The Hiltzik et al. Publication actually teaches away from Applicants' recited add-on level of at least about 5%, as the Hiltzik et al. Publication discloses coatings should be less than 3.5% or 3.0%, so as not to affect adsorption.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by the Hiltzik et al. Publication.

Karapasha

The rejection of Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 17, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Karapasha, WO 91/12030, is respectfully traversed.

The Karapasha Publication discloses a composition of bonded particles including carbon particles, white particles, and a water soluble binding agent (See for example, page 4, lines 17-27; page 14, line 33, through page 15, line 2; Claim 1). Applicants' claimed invention requires a water insoluble binding agent or a water insoluble coating material. As the Karapasha Publication does not disclose or suggest a water insoluble binding agent or a water insoluble coating material, the Karapasha Publication does not anticipate Applicants' claimed invention.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by the Karapasha Publication.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiltzik et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0082382, or Karapasha, WO 91/12030, is respectfully traversed. Claim 11 depends from Claim 1, and is thus patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above for Claim 1.

Conclusion


Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants have not addressed in this response, Applicants' undersigned attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

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Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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